

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01810 031214Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----085044 031239Z /46

O R 011247Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7404
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1810

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PBOF, PEPR, LE, IS, XF
SUBJECT: ME STAFF GROUP: SOUTH LEBANON - COMMENT BY
BOUTROS

REF: STATE 083531

1. MET WITH BOUTROS AT 1100 LOCAL APRIL 1. AFTER GOING OVER
WITH HIM AMBASSADOR MURPHY'S MARCH 30 CONVERSATION WITH ASSAD,
REVIEWED POSITION SET FORTH IN REFTEL, SAYING THAT FOR US MOST
HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENT WAS INTERNATIONALIZATION OF PROBLEM AND
THAT LEBANON WAS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE CERTAIN RISKS.

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WE AGREED THAT I WOULD COVER SAME GROUND WITH
PRESIDENT ON MONDAY MORNING (HAVE APPOINTMENT FOR 0930).
WE THEN DISCUSSED VARIOUS RELATED POINTS AS FOLLOWS.

2. UNIFIL MANDATE. BOUTROS SAID HE HAD SENT
MESSAGE TO TUENI TO EFFECT THAT IN GOL OPINION
PRESENCE OF UNIFIL SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON PRIOR PRESENCE

OF IDF AT GIVEN LOCALITY. UNIFIL SHOULD BE DEPLOYED AS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION, WHETHER NORTH OR SOUTH OF LITANI. IF CERTAIN POINTS WERE NOT OCCUPIED, THAT MISSION WOULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED.

3. TUENI APPARENTLY HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH WALDHEIM, WHO HAD SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO DO NOTHING FOR TIME BEING TO DEFINE GEOGRAPHICALLY THE LIMITS OF DEPLOYMENT, AND HOPED THAT PROBLEMS WHICH WERE NOW POSED COULD BE WORKED OUT ON GROUND AS DEPLOYMENT PROCEEDED AND ISRAELIS WITHDREW. GUYER, HOWEVER, HAD ASKED IF TUENI COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH TEXTS OF CAIRO AND SHTAURA AGREEMENTS. (PLO IS LEADING CAMPAIGN AMONG SUNNIS AND ARAB STATES TO HAVE CAIRO AGREEMENT REAFFIRMED AS BASIS ITS PRESENCE HERE.)

4. BOUTROS THEN CALLED FOR AND READ TO ME PART OF TELEGRAM HE SENDING TO TUENI ON SUBJECT. MESSAGE NOTED THAT SHTAURA AGREEMENT WAS MERELY A TIMETABLE FOR PLO WITHDRAWAL. WITH REGARD TO CAIRO AGREEMENT, GOL COULD NOT AGREE TO HAVE IT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION

REGARDING DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL IN THE SOUTH. BOUTROS' OPINION WAS THAT AGREEMENT WAS NULL AND VOID. INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS, HOWEVER, PREVENTED GOL FROM TAKING FINAL AND PUBLIC POSITION.

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5. BOUTROS SAID THIS QUESTION MIGHT WELL LEAD TO MINISTERIAL CRISIS. HE HAD ORIGINALLY PREPARED MUCH STRONGER MESSAGE, BUT PRIME MINISTER HAD RESISTED. BOUTROS HAD THEN SAID THAT IF THEY DID NOT AT LEAST TAKE POSITION AS STRONG AS THAT ABOVE HE WAS GOING TO QUIT. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD ARAB DELEGATIONS WERE PUSHING FOR EARLY MEETING OF SECURITY COUNCIL. HE HAD TOLD TUENI THAT IF THEY WERE MEETING TO URGE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, THAT WAS ONE THING, BUT IF THEY WERE GOING TO URGE THAT CAIRO ACCORD BE BASIS FOR DEPLOYMENT HE WAS GOING TO HAVE TO PRESENT COMPLAINT TO SC AGAINST OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS PLO. HE HAD GIVEN FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO TUENI THAT HE WAS NOT TO BUDGE AN INCH IN THIS REGARD, AND NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHATSOEVER WHICH WOULD PREJUDICE WALDHEIM'S COMMITMENT TO KEEP DEPLOYMENT QUESTION OPEN.

6. I ASKED HIM WHAT WE COULD DO TO SUPPORT GOL POSITION. WE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES OF OUR LOBBYING SUBTLY WITH ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO GET THEM TO LAY OFF CAIRO AGREEMENT. WE AGREED THAT USG MACHINE WAS

INCAPABLE OF BEING SUBTLE AND DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS FURTHER WITH SARKIS. IN MEANTIME, HE ASKED THAT WE ENCOURAGE WALDHEIM NOT TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO CAIRO AGREEMENT AS BASIS FOR DEPLOYMENT, AND TO KEEP HIS MIND OPEN.

7. WE DISCUSSED HADDAD BRIEFLY AND I AM TO FOLLOW UP WITH SARKIS ON MONDAY.

8. COMMENT: SUN IS OUT FOR SECOND DAY IN A ROW AND BOUTROS IS MORE CHEERFUL, BUT FED UP WITH FACT THAT HE HAS TO COORDINATE EVERYTHING AND EVEN UNIFIL SEEMS UNABLE TO GET ITS DUCKS IN A ROW. WHAT A CAN OF WORMS.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

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